

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-27 (Canceled).

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A glazing unit comprising:

at least one marking element visible from outside the glazing unit, the at least one marking element including a string of characters which ~~contain~~ contains one or more substrings of successive characters where at least one of the one or more substrings is encoded as a hexadecimal number with a base of 16,

wherein the marking element can be visually identified by whomsoever and an identity of the at least one marking element can be communicated remotely to an identification device, the identification device incorporating, for a given marking element, characteristics ~~relating~~ unique to the glazing unit on which the marking element is visible, the characteristics being ~~which are~~ configured to be at least partly accessible to the public in exchange for the identity of the at least one marking element.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The glazing unit as claimed in claim 28, wherein the string of characters includes at least one of numerals, letters, or pictorial symbols.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The glazing unit as claimed in claim 28, wherein the identity of the at least one marking element is recognizable by a character-recognition reader equipment.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The glazing unit as claimed in claim 28, wherein the at least one marking element is communicated to the identification device by a technical communication.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The glazing unit as claimed in claim 28, wherein the identification device includes a computer database in which all the characteristics relating to the glazing unit are recorded in a form of a string of numbers, each number of the string of numbers is coded as a hexadecimal number to comprise one of the one or more substrings of the at least one marking element.

Claim 33 (Canceled).

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The glazing unit as claimed in claim 28, wherein the at least one marking element and an identifier in the identification device remain unchanged while corresponding characteristics associated with the glazing unit can be altered.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The glazing unit as claimed in claim 28, wherein the at least one marking element is affixed in perpetuity to the glazing unit, or is secured to a part of the glazing unit that is inaccessible from the outside.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The glazing unit as claimed in claim 28, comprising the same at least one marking element arranged at plural points on the glazing unit.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented). The glazing unit as claimed in claim 28, wherein the at least one marking element identifies technical characteristics that make up the glazing unit, the characteristics relating to the manufacture of the glazing unit, commercial characteristics of the glazing unit, and characteristics associated with a destination of the glazing unit.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The glazing unit as claimed in claim 28, wherein the at least one marking element identifies at least one of the following characteristics:

- a commercial name of the glazing unit;
- a family of the glazing unit;
- a type of the glazing unit;
- a composition of glass in the glazing unit;
- technical characteristics afforded by thin layers deposited on the glazing unit;
- dimensions of the glazing unit;
- a place of manufacture of the glazing unit;
- a date of manufacture of the glazing unit;
- a first customer of the glazing unit;
- information associated with a first use of the glazing unit;
- a type of certification;
- standards that the glazing unit meets; or
- pecuniary information associated with the glazing unit.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The glazing unit as claimed in claim 28, wherein the glazing unit is an insulating unit and comprises at least two sheets of glass and at least one gas-filled cavity separating the two sheets of glass, a spacing of the two sheets of glass being

achieved by at least one interlayer, and wherein the at least one marking element is arranged on the at least one interlayer or on a face facing the gas-filled cavity.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The glazing unit as claimed in claim 39, wherein the at least one marking element identifies one or more characteristics, including a thickness of the gas-filled cavity, composition of the gas-filled cavity, and technical characteristics of the interlayer.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The glazing unit as claimed in claim 28, wherein the at least one marking element is engraved or printed onto an element that comprises the glazing unit.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The glazing unit as claimed in claim 28, wherein the glazing unit is laminated and comprises at least two sheets of glass and a plastic interlayer arranged between the two sheets of glass, the at least one marking element being affixed to the plastic interlayer.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A method for identifying a glazing unit including at least one marking element visible from outside of the glazing unit and visually identifiable by whomsoever, the method comprising:

recognizing the at least one marking element,

after the recognizing, transmitting a content of the at least one marking element via a first technical communication device to an identification device including a computer database,

identifying via the identification device one or more hexadecimal numbers from a string of characters of the at least one marking element, the string of characters containing one or more substrings of successive characters where at least one of the one or more substrings is encoded as a hexadecimal number with a base of 16,

correlating via the computer database the one or more hexadecimal numbers with an item of information in the computer database, the item of information including characteristics unique to the glazing unit on which the marking element is visible, and

passing-on at least some of the item of information publicly via a second technical communication device.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented). The method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the recognizing of the at least one marking element is performed by electronic reading.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the transmitting of the content of the at least one marking element to the identification device is performed by mail, by telephone, by telefax, by electronic communications, or by Internet.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the passing-on of at least some of the item of information publicly via a second technical communication device includes by telephone, in writing by mail, by telefax, by sending a message by telephone or Internet, by displaying on an Internet site, or by displaying on any display screen connected to a communications network.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): A system for identifying a glazing unit using a marking element affixed to the glazing unit and identifiable from outside the glazing unit, the system comprising:

a first technical communication device that transmits recognition of the marking element to an identification device including a computer database, the identification device receiving the recognition of the marking element and identifying one or more hexadecimal numbers from a string of characters of the marking element, the string of characters containing one or more substrings of successive characters where at least one of the one or more substrings is encoded as a hexadecimal number with a base of 16, the identification device correlating the one or more hexadecimal numbers to information in the computer database, the information including characteristics unique to the glazing unit on which the marking element is visible and being ~~that is~~ at least partially publically renderable; and

a second technical communication device that passes on the information in the computer database that corresponds to the marking element from the identification device to a reception device.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The system for identifying a glazing unit as claimed in claim 47, wherein, with the marking element visible from outside the glazing unit, the system further comprises an electronic reader that recognizes the marking element and that reads the marking element.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The system for identifying a glazing unit as claimed in claim 47, further comprising at least one database filter associated with the identification device so as to pass on only some of the information corresponding to the marking element.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): The system for identifying a glazing unit as claimed in claim 47, wherein the first technical communication device and the second technical communication device include utilizing mail, telephone, telefax, electronic communications, or Internet ~~type~~.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): The system for identifying a glazing unit as claimed in claim 47, wherein the reception device includes a recording or viewing device.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The method for identifying the glazing unit as claimed in claim 43, wherein the information corresponding to the at least one marking element and contained in the computer database of the identification device includes technical characteristics that make up the glazing unit, characteristics relating to manufacture of the glazing unit, commercial characteristics of the glazing unit, and characteristics associated with a destination of the glazing unit.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): The method for identifying the glazing unit as claimed in claim 43, wherein the correlating the one or more hexadecimal numbers with the item of information further comprises relating the one or more hexadecimal numbers to a string of numbers of an identifier, the identifier representing the item of information and the item of information containing ~~all~~ characteristics relating to the glazing unit,

wherein the information is recorded in the computer database of the identification device in a computer-oriented manner in a form of the string of numbers of the identifier.

Claim 54 (Canceled).

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): The glazing unit as claimed in claim 39, wherein the at least one marking element is arranged on a face of the at least one interlayer facing the gas-filled cavity.